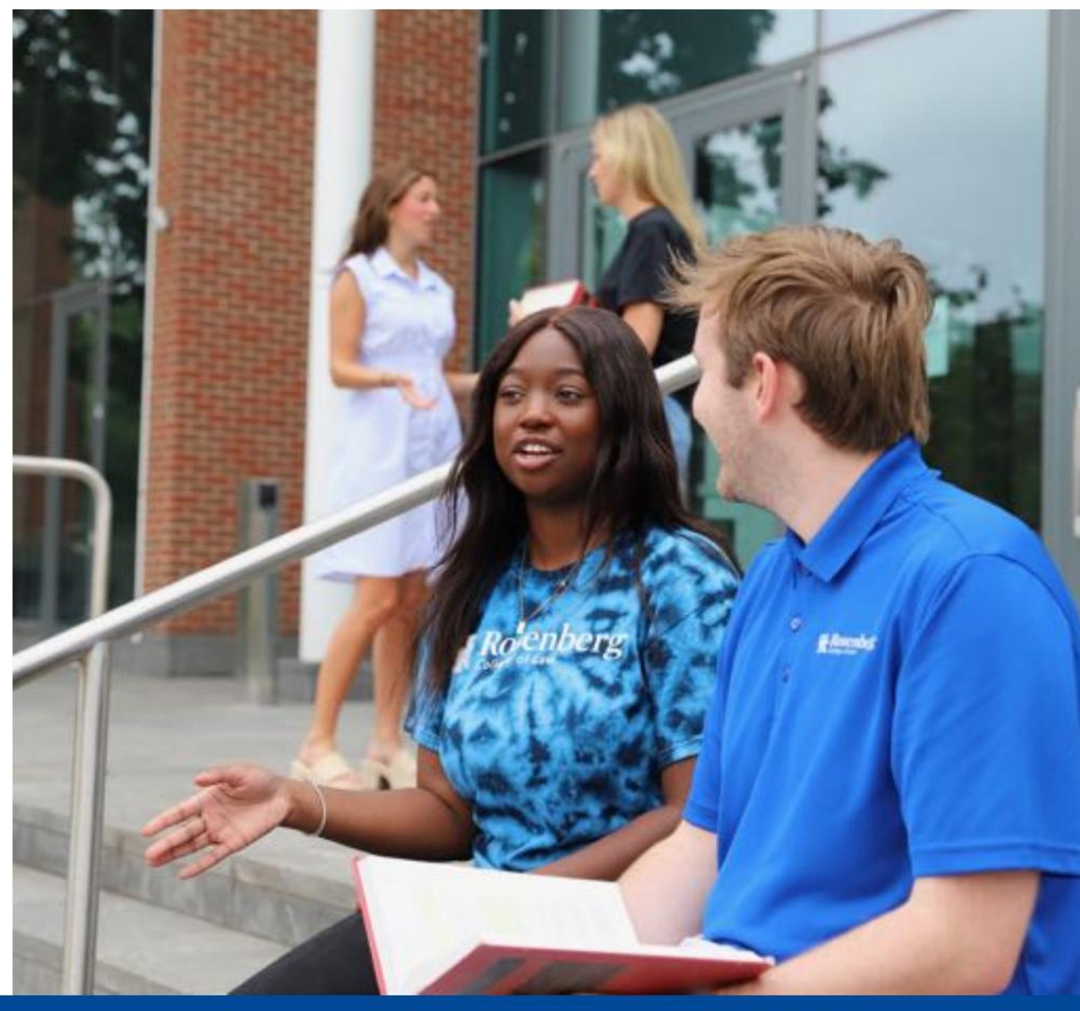
UK LAW NOTES

FALL 2025

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY J. DAVID ROSENBERG COLLEGE OF LAW



Celebrating Leaders of Today & Tomorrow

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SOUTHLAND PRINTING CO.

ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE

Law Notes is published annually for the alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the UK Rosenberg College of Law.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Our theme for this year's *Law Notes* is "Celebrating Leaders of Today and Tomorrow," and there is much to celebrate. In this edition, we proudly feature just a few of those leaders who are among our many distinguished alumni, faculty, and students — from Senator Mitch McConnell and his tenure as the longest-serving leader of the United States Senate in the history of our country, to Justice Pamela Goodwine's inspiring journey to be the first Black woman to serve as a justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court, to the dozens of pictures and stories of future leaders from the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law.

There has been no shortage of leaders from Kentucky in our country's legal history. Early on, from 1807 through 1957, there was always at least one justice from Kentucky on the Supreme Court of the United States, and from 1938 through 1939, three of the nine justices were from the Bluegrass state — James C. McReynolds, Louis Brandeis, and Stanley Reed. In total, during this 150-year period, 10 justices and 1 chief justice came from Kentucky, including, in addition to the aforementioned three, Thomas Todd; Robert Trimble; John McLean; Samuel Miller; John Marshall Harlan; Horace Lurton; Wiley Rutledge; and Chief Justice Fred Vinson. Who will be next? Perhaps the answer may be found in these pages. What is certainly reflected in these pages is that UK Rosenberg College of Law is providing an excellent environment and instruction for our outstanding students. Here, they develop their leadership skills and are given opportunities to exercise those skills and serve the public, regardless of the career path they choose.

Traditionally, as many of our illustrious alumni have demonstrated, lawyers have been looked to for leadership throughout their communities. Today, there is a particular need for lawyers to lead by example in how to engage in a civilized exchange of ideas and viewpoints, and how to respect those whose ideas differ from their own, and how to resolve conflicts when viewpoints collide without resorting to violence. Those are values that the UK Rosenberg College of Law strives to instill.

It is very heartening to me to see the faculty, students, and staff dedicate themselves to achieving these goals as is portrayed in this annual publication. I am very grateful to serve as the interim dean with such a team.

James C. Duff
Interim Dean

College Holds Commencement Ceremony for the *Class of 2025*

The University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law held its commencement ceremony for the Class of 2025 on Friday, May 9, at the Singletary Center for the Arts. Guests of the graduates, along with college faculty and staff, celebrated as 114 students crossed the stage to receive their degree certificates.

"What a journey this class has been on. Today is a great, long-awaited day of joy," said Paul Salamanca, former acting dean of the UK Rosenberg College of Law. "We share your sense of accomplishment, your sense of relief, your sense of excitement, and your optimism for the future."

The ceremony included remarks from individuals representing the students, faculty and the legal profession. As the top-ranked student in the class, Jacob N. Bruce of Frankfort, Kentucky, spoke on behalf of the students. He was followed by Professor John Blevins, Everett H. Metcalf Jr. Professor of Law, who the graduating class selected to bring remarks on behalf of the faculty. Finally, J. David Rosenberg, an alumnus of the law school and the college's namesake, shared words of encouragement on behalf of the bar.

Bruce recalled practicing public speaking with his grandfather as a child, around the age of six or seven. "He'd always say, and I carry this with me every day of life, 'Never forget about the person in the back of the room'," Bruce said. "In telling me to never forget those people in the back of the room, he didn't just mean 'be loud,' he meant 'be brave.' He meant to help me understand that once you've climbed the highest mountains in your chosen career, don't forget about those who need a helping hand."

Bruce said the graduates have an opportunity to turn their education into impact.

"In our careers as lawyers, we will encounter many a person in the back of the room — people who we, as lawyers, are uniquely empowered to help," he said.

Professor Blevins, who joined the faculty in 2024, previously served as a visiting professor at the UK Rosenberg College of Law and taught the Class of 2025 when they were first-year law students. Blevins said his 1L group resembled "seasoned attorneys" by their third year.

"Wherever you go in this state, wherever you go in this region or in this country, you are now people of influence and respect, and people will look to you in your towns," Blevins said. "They will depend upon you for guidance when the hard questions come."

Rosenberg, speaking on behalf of the bar, said the law graduates could now count themselves among the most highly educated citizens of the world.

"You've worked hard, very hard, to get here with many of you becoming the first in your families to attend college or law school," he said. "Very soon, you will be privileged to be admitted into a profession in which alumni of our College of Law have argued cases or sat as judges in courts throughout the country, risen to be corporate executives, legislators, senators, governors, leaders of not-for-profit organizations, community leaders, academic and education professionals."

Beau Steenken, acting associate dean of academic affairs, called the graduates' names as former Acting Dean Salamanca presented members of the class with certificates signifying attainment of the degree of Juris Doctor. The graduating class elected Professors Zachary Bray and Alan Kluegel to carry out the tradition of placing a doctoral hood on each graduate. Several graduates received special awards and recognition during the ceremony. Seventeen graduates were in the running for nomination and election to the Order of the Coif. The top 10 percent of the class was inducted once all grades were finalized. Nine students were recognized with the Pro Bono Award for completing at least 50 hours of independent, law-related public service prior to graduation.

Finally, the faculty selected Faith Evans of Lexington, Kentucky, as the 2025 recipient of the Faculty Cup. The Faculty Cup recognizes a graduating student whose endeavors, both in and outside of the classroom, made the law school a more interesting place for faculty and students alike.

"This year's recipient is someone who has been a bright and steady light throughout all of our times here," Salamanca said. "This is a person who is not only deeply involved in a wide range of activities but who also approaches every opportunity in every situation with humility, curiosity, perspicacity and persistence."

Salamanca concluded the ceremony by congratulating the graduates again and welcoming them to the profession.

"These courageous, passionate, determined graduates of the Rosenberg College of Law will be sure to have an important impact in their lives as lawyers on their clients, on their communities, on the Commonwealth, on our society, our nation and our world," he said.

Order of the Coif eligible:

Jacob Nathaniel Bruce
Hayden Turner Crosby
Tanner Fisher
Alli Wade Harris
Caroline Taylor Hood
Caroline Crews Keating
Madison Liana King
Kaci Loveland
Will Miller
Emily Prince
Turner Denise Reynolds
Katelyn Grace Richardson
Joseph Mick Smith
Kilian Southworth
Kassidy Stumbo
Preiss Kaitlyn Terry
Sarah Ann Turri

Pro Bono Award:

Qwenton Lamont Briggs
Lauren Elizabeth Chugg
Peter Dominguez
Tanner Fisher
Kacey Rose Hartmann
Madison Liana King
Pamela Anna Kobeszko
Kody Lynn Morgan
Abigail G. Vicars

student impact

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2025 GRADUATE FEATURE:

Graduate Hopes to Impact Community and Inspire Future Women Lawyers

Caroline Keating, a 2025 graduate of the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, said her mother has always been her role model, not necessarily because of the career she chose, but because she loved her job.

"She was a great example of someone who had passion for what she did. It was more than a job to her," Keating said.

Before coming to law school, Keating earned a bachelor's degree in American Studies from the University of Alabama. While studying there, Keating solidified her desire to go to law school after realizing that many of her strengths aligned with the qualities she often heard were traits of successful attorneys. She had a good work ethic and strong organizational skills in addition to being detail-oriented and able to easily connect with people to build friendships and community.

Once she decided on law school, Keating immediately knew she wanted to return to her hometown and attend UK because she loved the Lexington community.

Caroline Keating's mother, Sonja Keating, is also a graduate of the law school at UK. Sonja Keating serves as the chief operating officer and general counsel for the United States Equestrian Federation. However, Caroline Keating said her mother never pushed her to follow in her footsteps but supported her as she found her own way.

Caroline Keating started law school looking for something that piqued her interest and would lead to a career she loved. Coincidentally, she found that she loved equine law.

"One thing that attracted me to equine law was the significance of the Thoroughbred industry to Kentucky. It is an essential part of what makes the Commonwealth unique," she said.

> "I like the idea of working in the legal sphere and being another female role model who inspires young women to want to become lawyers"
>
> Caroline Keating

"The idea of being part of it and contributing to its sustainability is meaningful to me."

Keating will join Stoll Keenon Ogden as an associate and focus on equine law, particularly in horse racing and business transactions. "The horseracing industry has had its challenges. I really want to support it and see it thrive," Keating said.

Keating described a positive, supportive experience at UK Rosenberg College of Law.

"I appreciate the culture at the law school. In my experience, UK law students are not competitive in an unhealthy toxic way. The friends I made in law school celebrated my successes. I've met people at the law school who I know will be lifelong friends of mine," she said.

Coming into law school, Keating said she worried about the competitive nature of law school, but she believes that the faculty helped to create a supportive environment inside and outside of the classroom.

"My professors have always been accessible," Keating said. "They are genuinely invested in the learning and growth of their students."

As she prepares to enter the next phase of her legal career, Keating said she hopes to influence more young women to go to law school and practice law.

Keating said she wants to be a positive impact in her community.

"I like the idea of working in the legal sphere and being another female role model who inspires young women to want to become lawyers," she said.

2025 GRADUATE FEATURE:

Music Professor Found a New Path in the Law After Unexpected Diagnosis

Graydon McGrannahan grew up surrounded by music. His parents met as music majors in college, and he spent his childhood attending concerts and playing piano and trombone. At 14, he landed his first professional gig as a trombonist. He later earned three degrees in music and became a music professor.

"That was part of my DNA," he said of his passion for music and the trombone.

However, in 2015, McGrannahan learned that cancer treatments from nearly 15 years earlier had caused significant hearing loss. At the time, his wife was pregnant and doctors said he would need to give up music if he wanted to hear his child speak to him one day.

Faced with this life-changing news, McGrannahan had to find a new path. That journey led him to law school, where he recently graduated as part of the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law Class of 2025.

The years following the discovery of his hearing loss were a rollercoaster. "I had this ultimate low where my identity was just thrown off the curb," he said. But McGrannahan said he also felt the amazing high of becoming a dad.

After spending a decade as a music professor at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, McGrannahan and his family made the decision to relocate to Reno, Nevada, his hometown. Upon his return, he enrolled in a variety of classes as he considered a new direction for his career. One of those classes, "Legal and Ethical Issues in Higher Education," introduced McGrannahan to the beautiful complexities of the law.

It was McGrannahan's stepfather—a practicing attorney in Reno—who first suggested he consider the legal field, by becoming his paralegal at his law firm. Although McGrannahan initially dismissed the suggestion, modestly describing himself as "just a trombone player," he agreed to give it a try. Before long, he found himself intellectually engaged by the work, honing his writing skills and contemplating the possibility of attending law school.

When it was time to start applying for law schools, McGrannahan and his wife chose to move to Kentucky to be closer to family. Having spent summers in the state with his grandparents since he was a child, McGrannahan already had ties to the area.

Then he had to overcome some challenges.

"I had to learn to be a student again," McGrannahan recalled. "That was difficult." He also sometimes struggled to hear in class, but his professors and peers were eager to help. McGrannahan said one reason he loved attending UK Rosenberg College of Law was the camaraderie among his classmates.

"I love my class so much because we all respected each other," he said. "For the most part, we all were just sort of in this together."

Now, as a recent law graduate, McGrannahan plans to remain in Kentucky to practice law.

2025 GRADUATE FEATURE:
UK Rosenberg Law Graduate Hopes to One Day Give Back to Haiti

Laurent Cadet, a 2025 graduate of the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, said he knew from a young age that he wanted to become a lawyer. His father was a lawyer in Haiti, and Cadet was aware of the widespread corruption and lack of due process in the country. Cadet thought he might one day be able to help mend a failed justice system.

"I always wanted to become a lawyer because of that and potentially go back to Haiti and help," Cadet said.

He originally planned to go to college in France, but his parents had other ideas and encouraged him to study in the United States. At 16, he left his family in Haiti and enrolled at Bob Jones University in South Carolina, where he earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in political science and played on the men's soccer team.

Even though most of his immediate family lives in Haiti, Cadet had some relatives in Florida and moved there after graduating from college in 2020 to prepare for the LSAT and law school. He worked part-time while researching programs across the country and looking for the right fit. University of Kentucky kept appearing in his searches related to law school rankings, so Cadet decided to apply even though he had never been to Kentucky. A Zoom meeting with admissions staff and law school faculty sealed the deal.

"I just felt like they really wanted me here," Cadet said. "It might sound crazy, but I felt called to UK."

Cadet has no regrets about his decision, but he said his first year of law school was challenging. Even though his father continues to practice law in Haiti, the legal field is very different there, so Cadet had to navigate his studies on his own. In addition, he worked hard to fit into the law community in Kentucky. "It was a brand-new world to me," he said.

Cadet said even though he didn't have a lot of family support in the United States, law school faculty and administrators, as well as his peers, encouraged and supported him. He had always heard about law school being cutthroat, but he found a welcoming environment at UK Rosenberg College of Law. He recommends that anyone thinking about law school, and especially international students, look for mentors because "you're going to need people."

"I feel like the people are definitely the highlight of this place," Cadet said of UK Rosenberg College of Law.

Cadet said he was initially interested in criminal law when he entered law school. That is still the case, however, his interests have broadened, and Cadet noted that he is also interested in becoming a trial lawyer in civil litigation or criminal law.

Even though he doesn't have plans to return to Haiti permanently, Cadet said he remains hopeful that he will be able to have a positive impact on his home country one day.

"I do still want to go to Haiti, but that looks a little bit different now," he said. "I'm going to become a seasoned attorney and then I'm going to give back to Haiti."

Annual KJEANRL Symposium

The Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Law presented "Bluegrass: Medical Marijuana in the Commonwealth" for its annual symposium on Friday, March 28, in the G. Chad Perry III Grand Courtroom.

Participants spent the day learning about the enactment of Senate Bill 47, which legalized medical marijuana use in Kentucky.

Panel topics included an introduction to the regulatory framework for Senate Bill 47, information about how to become a cannabis lawyer, and the potential impacts of cannabis production on Kentucky agriculture.

The Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Law Presents the Vol. 17 Symposium:
BLUEGRASS: MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN THE COMMONWEALTH
Friday, March 28
10 AM–2 PM
Grand Courtroom
University of Kentucky Rosenberg College of Law

Annual KLJ Symposium

The Kentucky Law Journal presented "Executive Powers: A Changing Landscape of Authority" for its annual symposium in October 2024, at the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year.

The symposium, held in the G. Chad Perry III Grand Courtroom of the law building, focused on the future of executive powers in the state as well as the future of the federal executive branch, with an eye toward the November election.

The six panels presented were titled "Presidential Power: Appointments, Removals, and the Balance of Power," "Checking the President and Congressional Oversight," "Perspectives on Executive Power: Reflecting on 30 Years' Experience in the Office of Legal Counsel," "Prosecuting the President and Presidential Immunity," "State Executive Power and Checking the Governor," and "The Future of State Executive Power in Kentucky."

Future Alum, Class of 2026
Tina Ly

WHERE IS YOUR HOMETOWN?

Atlanta, Georgia

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN ATTENDING LAW SCHOOL?

I'm a nontraditional student with a B.S. in microbiology, so I went on quite a journey to realize that I wanted to become a lawyer. During the last two years of my undergrad, I worked as a clerk for a tax and accounting firm to earn some extra money. I slowly became fascinated by the tax programs and finance tools, which led me down a rabbit hole of expanding my duties into more difficult and fulfilling tasks. When the pandemic struck the month before I graduated, my firm recommended me to a local business owner seeking an in-house accountant for her chain of trade schools, daycare, and other businesses across the South. After conducting numerous financial and regulatory audits on my own and working alongside three law firms and four accounting firms that each provided specialized services for the schools, I eventually earned the role of finance director. At this point, I felt a calling to work in the legal field, and this job provided me the experience, interest, and courage to apply for a position at a tax law firm. When I became an enrolled agent (IRS credential) and manager for the tax law firm, I knew I was capable of becoming a lawyer and took the next step by applying to law school.

WHAT LED YOU TO CHOOSE THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY J. DAVID ROSENBERG COLLEGE OF LAW?

Lexington, the new law building, and the employment rate after graduation were most appealing to me. Lexington reminded me of Madison, Wisconsin, where I lived for a year and fell in love with its sense of community, bustling farmers market, and pockets of peace within nature. Although my alma mater had a relatively new law building as well, UK's traditional campus was a breath of fresh air compared to an urban campus that was heavily integrated with Atlanta's downtown area. My best friend was also stationed nearby, so I thought it would be a great opportunity to provide him and his wife support as they prepared to welcome their first child.

WHAT WERE YOUR GOALS WHEN YOU STARTED LAW SCHOOL, AND HAVE THEY CHANGED?

After loving my work in tax law, I was set on becoming a tax attorney. I planned to focus my courses around tax law whenever possible. While I have mostly followed and executed that plan, I have made an additional goal to participate in as many pro bono opportunities as I can.

Participating in legal clinics has been exciting, inspiring, and fulfilling. I am currently enrolled in the legal clinic course for the fall and plan to complete an externship with a nonprofit during the spring. I'm hoping to integrate public interest work into my career goals, but my priority will probably still sit in tax law.

HAS YOUR LAW SCHOOL EXPERIENCE, SO FAR, BEEN WHAT YOU EXPECTED?

I had no idea what attending law school really meant, but it was nothing like what I remembered from watching Legally Blonde years ago. I definitely did not expect to be so involved with the student organizations and pro bono opportunities within the law school. I think the students and faculty had been so welcoming and interesting that I always wanted to learn or experience more from them. I am constantly in awe of my peers and professors and grateful for how empowered I feel by them. Everyone is so compassionate, intelligent, and accomplished. I also wanted to be open-minded about what field of law I would specialize in, so I tried everything that sparked an interest in case I enjoyed something more than tax law.

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED AS A LAW STUDENT, AND HOW HAVE YOU WORKED TO OVERCOME THEM?

My legal experience was in a niche field of tax law which is already a different beast on its own. I didn't even know what a tort was before starting law school, so I had to learn a lot of jargon to understand my assignments and participate in class discussions. I had the most difficulty with learning how to study again after being out of school for a few years. My go-to study style from my anatomy and virology classes weren't very compatible with writing case briefs and prepping for cold calls. I had to research how to study for law school and write notes beyond the margins to provide myself with a cushion if I ever blanked out during a cold call. Thankfully, my mentor provided me with a lot of support whenever I felt lost about law school as well.

Outside of school, I struggled with my mental health and living apart from my husband who was busy attending medical school in another state. I had to build a lot of healthy habits and maintain a positive mentality. I always kept myself busy or had something to look forward to enjoying at the end of the day.

YOU'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN SEVERAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS. CAN YOU DISCUSS SOME OF THOSE STUDENT ORGS AND WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO PARTICIPATE?

The student organizations possess a passion that's infectious. They hosted events that were helpful, relevant, and inspiring. I attended events almost on a daily basis because of the rotating special topics and guests. The sense of community also uplifted my spirits and fueled me for the rest of the day.

I had applied for the role of 1L representative for the Student Public Interest Law Foundation (SPILF) on a whim after attending their interest meeting and loving its mission. I hadn't considered being its president until spring came, and my 3L president, Annie Deitz, had asked me about taking over after she graduated. SPILF lit a fire within me. I could never resist taking such a special opportunity after seeing how much dedication Annie had poured into building up SPILF and restarting the Libel Show fundraiser for students devoted to public interest law. When the opportunity to become the president for the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) arose, I felt a duty to create an active and welcoming organization inspired by the other amazing affinity groups at the law school.

Now that I'm entering my final year of law school, I've stepped down as president of both organizations to make way for new leaders and better balance my schedule with volunteering. I will still try to participate in as many events as possible, and I'm excited to see what the new leaders and their executive boards will have in store.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WHO ARE THINKING ABOUT GOING TO LAW SCHOOL?

Going to law school is a huge commitment, and it can feel very intimidating. All of your peers will be brilliant and hardworking, and your mental fortitude will be tested daily. Ease the burden on yourself by studying smarter, not harder. Your professors are the best resource, but when they aren't available, look into other resources that can aid in understanding cases or topics. There are many free resources already available for law students, and there are often representatives at the school to help make you aware of them.

I also highly recommend following a healthy lifestyle before entering law school so that you have the strongest foundation to build yourself into an exceptional lawyer. Of course, you won't be alone. You will have reliable peers to lean on occasionally who feel the same anxiety or frustration that you do, and there will be many student organizations that will make you feel welcomed and supported.

Highlights from Competitions

During the 2024 - 2025 Academic Year

40th Annual Jerome Prince Memorial Moot Court Competition

Three students — **Kaci Loveland**, **Christina Mays**, and **Riliegh Owens** —competed against more than 30 other teams in the 40th Annual Jerome Prince Memorial Moot Court Competition at Brooklyn Law School in April 2025. Loveland was named Best Oralist Overall.

Moot Court Board National Team

The college's **Moot Court Board National Team** competed in the 75th Annual Regional Moot Court Competition in Cleveland, Ohio. **Gavin Wedel** and **Kody Lynn Morgan**, both on Team A, went 3-0 during oral argument roads. They advanced to the semi-final round and ended with a third-place finish overall. **Preston Huennekens**, also on Team A, wrote the brief for his team, and the brief scored in fourth out of 14.

The students on Team B – **Jacob Bruce**, **Ashlee Gilbert**, and **Alli Wade** – wrote a brief that scored second out of 14, earning them the runner-up Best Brief award. Bruce and Gilbert were also successful with a third-round win.

Black Law Students Association

The **Black Law Students Association** mock trial teams made it to the third-place round, finishing fourth, at the 2025 Southern Region of the National Black Law Student Association Convention Feb. 19 – 23 in Nashville, Tennessee. The team included **Makayla Harris**, **Noel Matthias**, **Francois Louis**, and **Stephanie Mokube**.

Trial Advocacy Board

The **Trial Advocacy Board** national team traveled to Montgomery, Alabama, to compete in the National Trial Competition, Region 8, mock trial competition after many weeks of hard work and preparation. Competing advocates for UK were **Nathan Cox** , **John Childress**, **Holden Schroeder** and **Hannah Carroll**.

In other TAB news, **Jacob Patterson** received first place in the TAB Garmer Cup Closing Argument Competition held March 29-30 in the G. Chad Perry III Grand Courtroom of the law building, and **Daniel Short** was the runner up.

2025 Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition

Haley Barker, **Qwenton Briggs**, **Antonio Gallop**, **Abigayle Jewell**, and **Gavin Wedel** competed in the 2025 Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition held in Spring 2025 at St. John's University. Barker finished second place for Overall Oral Advocate. The competition is jointly sponsored by St. John's Law and American Bankruptcy Institute, and it is one of the nation's preeminent moot court competitions.

Women's Law Caucus Presents Awards at Annual Spring Reception

The Women's Law Caucus presented three awards during the student organization's spring reception held on March 26 at Clerestory at Greyline in Lexington, Kentucky.

Among the recipients were Melissa Henke, the Robert G. Lawson & William H. Fortune Professor of Law and director of legal research and writing, who received the faculty award; Laura F. Disney, an associate attorney at Porter, Banks, Baldwin & Shaw, PLLC, who received the alumni award; and Katherine Nipper, who received an award granted annually to a rising third-year law student.

Anita Britton, a UK Rosenberg Law alumna with distinction (Class of 1982), served as the keynote speaker. Britton is an accomplished and well-respected Kentucky attorney, especially in family law. Britton talked about the obstacles she has faced over her long career as a woman in the law, starting in the late-1970s when she first announced that she wanted to go to law school.

"I had to accept that I was fixing to embark on a course of study and enter a profession that was without question male-dominated, and that I would be doing so with precious few mentors and even allies," Britton said.

Britton, however, noted improvements in the number of women entering law school today and the support that women in the law receive from their peers.

"It makes me feel good to be able to be with you all and wish you the very best life in the law," Britton told the students, many of them members of the Women's Law Caucus, in the crowd.

Second-year law student Alexis Meade-Davidson introduced Henke, the faculty award winner. "She exemplifies what all women in the legal field strive to be: astute, poised, compassionate, and dedicated to serving others," Meade-Davidson said.

Upon receiving the award, Henke spoke briefly about what it means to "run your own race." She said that, professionally, it means to be curious, take opportunities, and reflect on what challenges and fulfills you. "Don't run the race somebody else tells you you're supposed to – you run your race," Henke said.

Second-year law student Alexis Mertz introduced the recipient of the Outstanding Attorney Award.

"I've had the privilege of working with Ms. Disney over the past year, and she has changed my life," Mertz said. "She exemplifies what it means to be a strong, successful, and compassionate mentor, particularly for young women entering the legal field."

Disney grew up in a small town in southeastern Kentucky. Disney said she was aware of only one female lawyer in her town, and no one in her family practiced law.

> “She [Laura F. Disney] exemplifies what it means to be a strong, successful, and compassionate mentor, particularly for young women entering the legal field.”
>
> Alexis Mertz

“Somehow, I decided I wanted to be a lawyer very early on despite that, but I didn’t really have anyone I could go to that I knew who could show me what this was all about,” Disney said.

In college, however, she met women in the law who mentored her and helped her as a law student and attorney. Disney said she strives to do the same thing for the next generation of lawyers, and she has remained active at the college since she graduated in 2021.

“I’m trying to provide the kind of mentorship that I had that helped me get to where I am today,” she said.

The Westerfield Award is given annually to a rising third-year law student who has demonstrated excellence in leadership on campus, in the civic sphere, in the arts, or in scholarly research and writing.

Associate Professor Shavonnie Carthens, advisor to the Women’s Law Caucus, said it was difficult to select one student, but the recipient demonstrated leadership in all these areas. Nipper, who didn’t know she would receive the award until it was announced, has interned for a local judge, served as a law school ambassador, and demonstrated academic excellence, among other accomplishments.

The Westerfield Award is named for Rebecca Westerfield, a 1975 graduate of the law school and a former Jefferson County Circuit Court judge.

Since the recipient of the Westerfield Award is unaware of their selection until their name is announced during the reception, Nipper accepted her award but did not speak at the event. Later, however, Nipper expressed her appreciation for Judge Westerfield; Lindley Williams, a third-year law student who has served as Nipper’s mentor and friend as well as president of the Women’s Law Caucus; and faculty and staff.

“Lastly, I’d like to thank my grandmother. I have been living with her throughout law school, and I cannot thank her enough for all her support and encouragement,” Nipper said. “She is truly an inspiration, and I am very grateful to be her granddaughter.”

Peter Perlman Lessons in the Law Series

The Peter Perlman Lessons in the Law series provides the community with free programs on various legal topics. Alumnus Peter Perlman was instrumental in starting the program.

On Sept. 10, 2024, UK Rosenberg College of Law presented "Wills and Estate Planning 101" as part of the series. Panelists included **Fayette District Court Judge Denotra Spruill Gunther**; **Mary Ellis Patton**, an attorney with Bluegrass Elderlaw PLLC; and **Margaret Pisacano**, deputy general counsel for medical risk management at the University of Kentucky. **Glen S. Bagby**, an attorney with Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, served as moderator.

On April 24, 2025, the college presented "Sports, Racing and Gaming 101" with **C.J. Donald**, an attorney with Haynes Boone; **Drew Fleming**, president and CEO of Breeders' Cup Limited; **Jim Host**, founder of Host Communications; **Sonja Keating**, general counsel and COO of the U.S. Equestrian Federation; and **Jay Ingle**, an attorney with Jackson Kelly, who served as moderator.

Both events were held in the multipurpose room of the Fayette County Circuit Court in downtown Lexington.

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Shavonnie Carthens, Assistant Professor of Law, was selected to participate in the 2024 Saint Louis University Health Law Scholars Program. This prestigious program provides a collegial forum for faculty new to health law and bioethics scholarship. Participants present works in progress and receive valuable advice and critique from experienced scholars and teachers in the field of health law and bioethics.

Joshua A. Douglas, Ashland, Inc. -Spears Distinguished Research Professor of Law and Acting Associate Dean for Research, is the author of a new book that examines voting rights and democracy, told through the stories of Supreme Court decisions.

Mary Beth Forester was selected to serve as the new Director of the Office of Continuing Legal Education at the UK J. David Rosenberg College of Law. Forester previously served as the Legal Director of the Monuments Workshop at UK. Forester has nearly 15 years of experience serving as the director of the Kentucky Bar Association's Continuing Legal Education department, which provides CLE programming for attorneys across the Commonwealth and nation and certifies the required annual hours for those who hold a Kentucky license to practice law. Forester has served on multiple committees and task forces with lawyers and judges across the state to improve the practice of law and judicial system in Kentucky.

Ilana Friedman, Assistant Professor of Law, presented, "*Institutionalized Challenges for Investigating Police Criminality*," at the 2025 Southeastern Association of Law Schools conference in July 2025.

Brian L. Frye, Spears-Gilbert Professor of Law, is one of the most downloaded authors on SSRN, a platform dedicated to the rapid dissemination of preprints and research papers. As of March 1, 2025, Frye held the 26th spot among 3,000 law authors for total new downloads over the past 12 months.

D'lorah Hughes, H. Wendell Cherry Associate Professor of Law and Director of Clinics and Externships, co-authored a casebook on criminal procedure, "Criminal Procedure: The Post-Investigative Process, Sixth Edition," published in 2025 by Carolina Academic Press. It is designed to teach the so-called "bail to jail" facets of criminal procedure.

Shweta Kumar, Assistant Professor of Law, presented "*Preempting Drug Price Reform*" at the 2025 ASLME Health Law Professors Conference held June 4-6, 2025, at Boston University School of Law.

Douglas Michael, Thomas P. Lewis Professor of Law, was recognized by the United Way of the Bluegrass in September 2024 as a Volunteer of the Year for his work with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at the UK Rosenberg College of Law. UK has served as a VITA site since 1992 and more than 700 students have volunteered and prepared more than 10,000 tax returns.

Michael Murray, Spears-Gilbert Associate Professor of Law, was named one of the 18 University Research Professors at UK for the 2025-2026 academic year, approved by the UK Board of Trustees. Murray is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar in artificial intelligence and the law; art law, including blockchains, cryptocurrency, and NFTs; intellectual property law, including copyright, trademark, and right of publicity; and legal rhetoric and communication, including visual legal rhetoric.

Jonathan Shaub, Norman & Carol Harned Associate Professor of Law and Public Policy, received the Carl Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy 2024 Award for Excellence in Oversight Research for his article, "*Common Law Executive Privilege(s)*." The recipient of this award is selected by a committee composed of law and political science oversight scholars and veteran practitioners.

Empower Future Legal Leaders
with *Your* Gift

Gifts to our college's scholarship funds ensure that deserving students have the opportunity to pursue an outstanding legal education at University of Kentucky. UK J. David Rosenberg College of Law students are known for their efforts both inside and outside the classroom. In addition to their academic work, UK Rosenberg Law students are involved in many student organizations and service to the community. Scholarships often are the deciding factor for a student to choose to attend the UK Rosenberg College of Law.

Your support of the following scholarships will make a huge difference not only in the life of the students that receive them, but also the college community and those who are served by our graduates.

The four scholarships highlighted below are the most recent endowed scholarships named for faculty. Thank you for considering a gift. For more information, please contact Aimee' Baston at abaston@uky.edu.

Mary J. Davis Law Fellowship

This endowed fund honors Professor Mary J. Davis and the leadership she has provided the UK Rosenberg College of Law during her career.

Bill Fortune Endowed Scholarship

The Bill Fortune Endowed Scholarship is being created. To give to this endowment now, please scan the QR code and type Bill Fortune Endowed Scholarship in the "Make your selection(s):" box and complete the remaining online form. Your gift will be earmarked for the Bill Fortune Endowed Scholarship account once it is completed.

Professor Chistopher W. Frost Memorial Scholarship Fund

This endowed fund celebrates the legacy of Professor Chris Frost and his dedication to his students and the UK Rosenberg College of Law.

Mark Kightlinger Fund

The Mark Kightlinger endowed student award was established by a grateful student in honor of his career as a law professor. Once gifts to this endowment reach $100,000, the fund will be converted to a scholarship.

UK Rosenberg College of Law
Hosts Conversation with Judge Andrew Oldham

The University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law hosted Judge Andrew Oldham of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit for a conversation on Thursday, March 6. The event, part of The John G. Heyburn II Initiative for Excellence in the Federal Judiciary, took place in the G. Chad Perry III Grand Courtroom of the law building. Judge Amul Thapar of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit served as the moderator.

Paul Salamanca, former acting dean of the UK Rosenberg College of Law, welcomed attendees and distinguished guests. Salamanca recognized Dr. Martha Heyburn and thanked her for her ongoing support of the college.

UK Vice Provost Jana Jasinski noted the long-lasting impact of John G. Heyburn II not only because of his rulings and other actions from the bench but also through the people he mentored.

"Thanks to the Rosenberg College of Law and the John G. Heyburn II initiative, we can carry on this storied legacy of serving Kentucky and our communities," Jasinski said. "My hope is that Judge Heyburn, especially, would be proud of how his alma mater has continued to uphold his enduring legacy of passion for the law and service for others."

Jack Heyburn, principal deputy solicitor general for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, provided background on the initiative founded in honor of his father. The nonpartisan Heyburn Initiative is dedicated to promoting and highlighting excellence in the federal judiciary through speaking events and by compiling judicial records and oral histories.

Thapar opened the discussion by asking Oldham about his decision to attend law school. Oldham shared that he initially went to college to follow in his parents' footsteps and become a doctor.

"I realized that not only was law intellectually interesting, not only was it an opportunity to study things I really, deeply cared about from the American founding, but it is the profession that protects the others," Oldham said. "In many ways, it is the most noble of professions for that reason, and I fell in love with it."

From there, Oldham proceeded to share insights and anecdotes about his career journey from law school to his current role on the bench. Oldham served as a law clerk to Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. at the Supreme Court of the United States and to Judge David B. Sentelle of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Oldham also worked as attorney-adviser in the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice from 2006-2008.

Prior to ascending to the bench, Oldham served as general counsel to Texas Governor Greg Abbott. Earlier in his career, he served as deputy solicitor general for the State of Texas, where he represented Texas in federal courts across the country, including twice before the U.S. Supreme Court. Before moving to Texas, Oldham was an attorney at Kellogg Hansen Todd Figel & Frederick in Washington, D.C. His practice focused on appellate litigation in federal courts throughout the country.

Thapar asked Oldham to share more about his experience working at a firm for the law students in the audience. Oldham spoke highly of the firm in Washington, D.C., his colleagues and clients, and said he learned a lot from the experience. He said his experience at the firm made him the lawyer that he later became.

Oldham engaged with attendees by answering questions during the event and continuing conversations afterward. Daniel Martell, a third-year law student from Owensboro, Kentucky, said he has attended every Heyburn Initiative event during his time in law school. Martell said he would like to clerk at the federal level and these events help him to learn "how federal judges look at their work, and how they look at the world."

"They make the decisions that end up impacting everyone else," he said. "These events give us a window into the life of a federal judge."

CLASS NOTES

2020s

Harper B. Anderson (2024) joined Stites & Harbison PLLC in Lexington, Kentucky, as an attorney in the Torts & Insurance Practice Service Group.

Matthew T. Roddy (2024) joined Stites & Harbison PLLC in Lexington, Kentucky, in the firms Construction Service Group.

Robert H. Dean (2023) joined Stites & Harbison PLLC in Lexington, Kentucky, as an attorney in the Real Estate & Banking Service Group.

Jackson B. Hurst-Sanders (2023) joined Stites & Harbison PLLC in Louisville, Kentucky, as an attorney in the Business Litigation Service Group.

Holly A. Couch (2023) joined Stites & Harbison PLLC in Lexington, Kentucky, as an attorney in the Construction Service Group.

Bennett Tuleja (2023) joined Steptoe & Johnson PLLC as an associate in the firm's Louisville office.

Samuel B. Weaver (2022) joined Keating Muething & Klekamp PLL in Cincinnati, Ohio, on the firm's Litigation Group. Weaver focuses his practice on complex commercial and general corporate litigation matters.

Joshua G. Wolford (2022) joined Stites & Harbison PLLC as an attorney in the Louisville, Kentucky, office in the Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy Service Group.

Dominick Ellis (2021) joined the Indianapolis office of Ogletree Deakins as an associate. His practice focuses on employment law.

Paige Kregor (2021) joined Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A., as an associate in the firm's Charleston, South Carolina, office. She is a member of the firm's real estate practice, with a focus on commercial transactions.

2010s

Remy B. Smith (2018) joined Ogletree Deakins in the firm's Philadelphia office as an associate focusing on employment law.

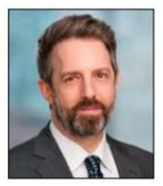
Kevin Havelda (2015) has been named a partner at Frost Brown Todd in the firm's Business Litigation Practice Group in Denver, Colorado. He rejoined the firm after starting his legal career as an associate in the firm's Lexington, Kentucky, office.

Matthew Hlinka (2015) was promoted to partner at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP, in Washington, D.C. Hlinka focuses on patent and trade secret litigation, primarily in the areas of pharmaceuticals and chemical products.

Alison Huenefeld (2013) joined Keating Muething & Klekamp PLL in Cincinnati, Ohio, as a partner in the Labor & Employment Group.

Rachel Devoto (2011) accepted a role in the law department of Humana Inc. as Senior Counsel for Health Plan Contracting.

Alex Kuebbing (2011) joined Kaufman & Stigger, PLLC in Louisville, Kentucky. His practice concentrates on litigation of injury and death claims.



Matthew Barszcz (2010) joined Cozen O'Connor as a labor and employment attorney in the firm's Chicago office.

2000s

Nicola Ai Ling Prall (2004), a principal in Jackson Lewis P.C.'s Raleigh office, has been recognized in the 2025 edition of Chambers USA, a prestigious annual guide ranking the leading law firms in the U.S., for her immigration practice.

1990s

Laura D'Angelo (1996) joined Jones Walker LLP as a partner in the Corporate Practice Group and a member of the Gaming Industry Team based in Lexington, Kentucky.

1980s

Richard Edwards (1988) was hired by Steptoe & Johnson PLLC in the firm's Louisville office as Of Counsel, focusing on litigation, asbestos, insurance, and product liability.

Class Notes Submission: UK Rosenberg Law encourages alumni to submit recent professional successes along with a headshot to law@uky.edu. Please include first name, middle initial, last name, and married name (if applicable). Please specify the UK Rosenberg Law graduates when sending a list of multiples from a firm.

In Memoriam

Mr. Thomas A. Collins ’56

Mr. J. Leland Brewster II ’57

Mr. Dale Burchett ’60

Mr. David F. McAnelly ’61

Mr. Whayne C. Priest, Jr. ’62

Mr. Philip L. Taliaferro III ’62

Mr. John D. Cole ’64

Mr. Harlan H. Veal, Jr. ’66

Mr. Robert C. Moody ’67

Mr. William R. Whitledge ’67

Mr. James E. Arehart ’67

Mr. William H. Gorin ’67

Mr. Paul F. Guthrie, Jr. ’67

Mr. George C. Piper ’67

Mr. Eli H. Brown IV ’68

Mr. Richard S. Holt ’68

Mr. John C. Vigor, Jr. ’68

Mr. Paul A. Willis ’69

The Honorable Joseph F. Bamberger ’70

Mr. Edward A. Mayer ’73

Mr. Henry C. Stoltz ’73

Mr. Marvin L. Coan ’73

Mr. Harvey E. Schneider ’73

Mr. Thomas E. Meng ’74

The Honorable Lewis B. Hopper ’74

Mr. Donald C. Buring ’74

Mr. O. Joseph Hood ’75

Mr. Donald J. Ruberg ’76

Mrs. Ann D. Sturgill ’76

Mr. David A. Bratt ’78

Mr. Johnnie L. Turner ’78

Mrs. Lois T. Prewitt ’80

Mr. H. Davis Sledd, Jr. ’82

Mrs. Anna R. Gwinn ’85

Mrs. Mary Jo Moloney ’89

Mr. Patrick W. Gault ’93

Mrs. Jean Harrod Hixson ’97

Mr. Stephen E. Oakes ’04

Mr. Seth Edward Fawns ’16

**As of June 30, 2025*

Community Grieves Loss of Longtime, Beloved Professor Mark Kightlinger

Mark F. Kightlinger, who joined the faculty at the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law in 2004, died on July 17, 2025. He was a beloved professor at the college, remembered by many as a thoughtful educator, skilled lawyer, and kind individual.

“We are deeply saddened about the loss of Professor Mark Kightlinger, an esteemed educator and thoughtful mentor to our students and alumni and a great friend to many of my faculty colleagues,” said Jim Duff, interim dean at the law school.

Kightlinger joined the college in 2004. He notably taught administrative law and constitutional law, among other courses, and he served as faculty adviser to the Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture and Natural Resources Law.

As a scholar, he specialized in law and philosophy, international law, administrative law, and internet law. He was often seen reading while simultaneously walking the halls of the law building.

“Mark was a kind and decent person,” said Professor Paul Salamanca, who has been on the law faculty since 1995. “He loved the students, and he put his heart and soul into his work. He will be remembered for years for his meticulous PowerPoints, for his wry sense of humor (a mixture of Alan Alda and Groucho Marx), and for his habit of walking the halls while reading. We will miss him sorely.”

Third-year law student Austin Graham remembered Kightlinger’s final Contracts I class during his first year as a law student.

“Professor Kightlinger had a particular kindness toward all of my colleagues in his final Contracts I class, which made the first semester of law school that much more enjoyable,” Graham said. “He left many of his students feeling a sense of belonging in the law school community, which can often be hard to find in those early days. He will be missed greatly.”

Prior to joining the faculty at UK Rosenberg Law, Kightlinger was a partner resident in the Covington & Burling law firm’s Washington, D.C. office. He was active in the firm’s food law practice, with a particular focus on the impact of new federal bioterrorism legislation. From 1996 through 2001, he was based in the firm’s Brussels office, where he developed a legislative and regulatory practice advising leading technology companies on European Union laws and policies affecting the Internet, electronic commerce, online advertising, and data privacy. He also worked on a range of international trade issues, with a primary focus on the WTO’s approach to information technology and the Internet. In addition, he assisted Immigration Equality (formerly known as the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force) on a pro bono basis in their efforts to improve the treatment of bi-national same-sex couples under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act. Kightlinger’s scholarship focused on Internet law and privacy issues.

Kightlinger received a B.A., summa cum laude, from Williams College in 1981. He received a B.A. from Cambridge University in 1983, and an M.A. in 1995. He received his J.D. from Yale Law School in 1988, and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Yale University in 1991.

“The UK Rosenberg College of Law wishes to extend condolences to Mark Kightlinger’s family,” Duff said. “He touched countless lives both inside and outside of the classroom and will be missed.”

Kightlinger is survived by his sister, Lisa Kightlinger, and brother-in-law, Robert Salmon, of Dennis, Massachusetts, as well as his nephew, Christopher Salmon, and niece, Karolena Salmon.

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkins Shares His Family History

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkins, a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, joined Steven Reed, a 1986 alumnus of the college and general counsel for BrightSpring Health Services, for a conversation at the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024. Serving as the 2024 Roy R. and Virginia F. Ray Distinguished Lecturer, Wilkins, a native of Muncie, Indiana, discussed tracing his roots back to his fourth great-grandmother, Edy Salsbury, in Kentucky.

The conversation in the law school's G. Chad Perry III Grand Courtroom was part of a two-day campus series of events featuring Wilkins and co-sponsored by UK Libraries, The Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies, The John G. Heyburn II Initiative for Excellence in the Federal Judiciary, and UK Rosenberg College of Law. Wilkins presented at M.I. King Library on Wednesday, Oct. 9 to discuss genealogical research using court records and other archival materials. Kentucky State Archivist Rusty Heckaman, UK Historian Vanessa Holden, and UK Special Collections Librarian Reinette Jones joined Wilkins on a panel.

"It was an honor to serve as a panelist during Judge Wilkins' visit and to share in the telling of African American history and genealogy in Kentucky as a reflection of our efforts to document and preserve this research at the University of Kentucky Libraries," Jones said.

During his conversation moderated by Reed at the UK Rosenberg College of Law on the following day, Judge Wilkins delved deeper into his family history, the law, and what he learned from those archives. "This is an opportunity for us to talk about justice, history, and America all woven into one," said Reed, who praised Wilkins for being an extraordinary, impactful attorney and a legal giant.

Edy Salsbury, an enslaved woman in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, sued in 1860 for freedom and land conferred to her, as provided by the terms of a will by her owner, Thomas Salsbury, and the ability to stay in Kentucky following her emancipation.

"In a lot of ways, the easier thing to do would have been to leave to get to an area where slavery was illegal and away from the front lines of the war," Wilkins said. "But I feel like she had a lot of resolve; she had a lot of grit; she had a lot of fortitude."

In 1862, a judge ruled that Edy Salsbury and other enslaved people on the plantation had the right to be free, remain in Kentucky, and own the property conferred to them under the will of Thomas Salsbury because the intent for the disposition of property was made in the owner's will before the state constitution was amended to prevent freed slaves from staying in the state. The ruling became known as the Salsbury Free Negro Settlement.

Wilkins said he wondered if the judge and Edy Salsbury's lawyers were progressive, but his research showed they were Confederate sympathizers. In fact, Wilkins said, her lawyer was later arrested for being a Confederate spy in the Civil War. "These things are complex, and I think that people aren't just black and white," he said. "The judge at least followed the law despite whatever his sympathies were and whatever his feelings about slavery may have been."

Wilkins noted that there are many ways to conceive of justice, but as a judge, he took an oath to rule based on the Constitution and laws.

Wilkins also discussed a 1990s federal class action lawsuit that he and his relatives filed against the State of Maryland and the Maryland State Police. Wilkins believed their constitutional rights were violated due to Maryland State Police racially profiling and targeting their vehicle, unlawfully stopping and detaining them, and unlawfully searching their vehicle on the highway while they traveled to a relative's funeral services. At the time of the stop, Wilkins was an attorney working in Washington, D.C. This lawsuit led to a landmark settlement for Maryland State Police to revamp their policies to prohibit racial profiling in traffic stops, preservation of police audio and videotaping, and additional reforms in policing practices by Maryland State Police.

When asked what advice he wanted to offer law students in the audience, Wilkins told them to have courage. "You're going to have cases where the odds are against you, but sometimes those are the most important cases for you to take on," he said.

During his visit to Lexington, Judge Wilkins also visited and spoke to an assembly of high school students at Fayette County Public Schools Carter G. Woodson Academy. The male scholars were able to hear more about Judge Wilkins' life story and career path.

Ambassador John J. Sullivan

Former U.S. deputy secretary of state and former U.S. ambassador to the Russian Federation

Roy R. and Virginia F. Ray Distinguished Lecture Series

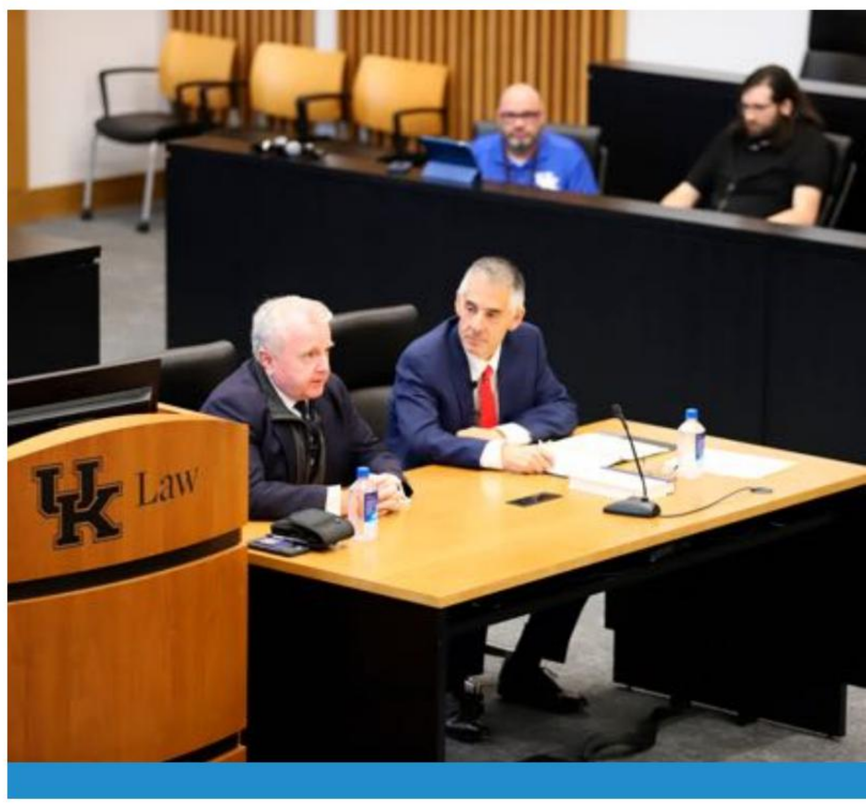
Ambassador John J. Sullivan, former U.S. deputy secretary of state and former U.S. ambassador to the Russian Federation, visited the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law on Nov. 4, 2024, for a Q&A. The event, part of the Roy R. and Virginia F. Ray Distinguished Lecture Series, was held in the G. Chad Perry III Grand Courtroom at the law building. Former Acting Dean Paul Salamanca served as moderator.

Sullivan, a partner in Mayer Brown's Washington, D.C. and New York offices, is also author of the book, *Midnight in Moscow*, published in August 2024. A reception and book signing followed the event.

The publisher describes *Midnight in Moscow* as "a memoir of service by the American ambassador who was on the diplomatic front lines when Putin invaded Ukraine," and a "behind-the-scenes account of how U.S.-Russia relations hit their nadir—and a playbook for our unfolding confrontation."

Sullivan discussed the book and his career with students, faculty, and distinguished guests. In addition to the Q&A, he met with a small group of students from UK Rosenberg College of Law and the UK Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce before the main event. Students interested in becoming diplomats, pursuing careers in foreign service and discussing general professional development were invited to attend.

The Roy R. and Virginia F. Ray Distinguished Lecture Series is supported by a gift from Roy and Virginia Ray. Roy Ray was a 1928 graduate of the law school at UK.



Law Alumnus and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell Returns to *University of Kentucky*

The University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law hosted U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell on Oct. 30, 2024, as part of the 2024 Roy R. and Virginia F. Ray Distinguished Lecture Series. The event, titled "If Not Me, Who: A Colloquium on Leadership," was held in the Gatton Student Center Ballroom and attended by students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Former Acting Dean Paul Salamanca served as moderator for the discussion with Leader McConnell, a 1967 graduate of the college.

Buzz English, a 1983 graduate of the UK Rosenberg College of Law and current chair of the college's Visiting Committee, introduced Leader McConnell. First elected to the U.S. Senate in 1984, McConnell is Kentucky's longest-serving senator and the longest-serving Senate party leader in United States history.

English noted that McConnell has been instrumental in transforming the federal judiciary, making decisions that led to the appointments of three Supreme Court justices. In four years, he prioritized the confirmation of 30 percent of circuit court judges nationwide and a total of 234 lifetime appointments to the federal bench.

McConnell has been recognized by TIME Magazine three times as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World.

In 1984, McConnell made history as the only Republican challenger in the country to defeat an incumbent Democrat and as the first Republican to win a statewide Kentucky race since 1968. He was elected to a record seventh term on Nov. 3, 2020.

"It is with great pride that I can say that the most consequential Kentuckian since Henry Clay is a graduate of the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law," English said.

McConnell graduated with honors from the University of Louisville College of Arts and Sciences before attending law school at the University of Kentucky College of Law, now the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law.

McConnell remembered being a law student and searching for something at which he could excel. He recalled participating in moot court and placing first in a competition because he was good at arguing. He was also president of the Student Bar Association.

McConnell said the most interesting aspect of his law school experience is how dramatically the composition of the student body has changed compared to his days as a student. "We had seven women and one African American, so the country's gone a long way over the years," he said.

McConnell and Salamanca discussed foreign policy, trade and McConnell's role in Congress, among other topics.

"It was an honor to participate in this distinguished lecture series and spend some time talking with alumni and students," McConnell said. "The J. David Rosenberg College of Law is providing students with an exceptional legal education, and I'm grateful to be an alumnus of such a prestigious institution."

Salamanca closed the event by thanking McConnell for his visit and his example of leadership. "You mean a lot to the College of Law as a very illustrious alumnus of ours," Salamanca said.

Law Alumnus Publishes Book

About Thomas Jefferson's Kentucky Ties and Donates Royalties to College

Denis Fleming Jr., a 1983 graduate of the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, recently published a new book titled, "Thomas Jefferson and the Kentucky Constitution." He donated all royalties from the book, with a matching gift, to the college for a scholarship fund.

In the book, Fleming examines Thomas Jefferson's connection to Kentucky's constitution. The author uses firsthand accounts from Jefferson, John Breckinridge, and the papers of George Nicholas, who was a key figure behind Kentucky's first constitution, to show the influence these men had on the 1792 charter.

Sheryl G. Snyder, a 1971 alumnus who was inducted into the Law Alumni Association Hall of Fame in 2018, wrote the foreword. Fleming said a 1984 article that Snyder wrote for the *Kentucky Law Journal* inspired the book.

"Much has been written about the separation of governmental powers under the Constitution of Kentucky (including my 1984 *Kentucky Law Journal* article), but this book accesses historical resources rarely if ever used on this topic," Snyder wrote in the foreword. Snyder called the book "impeccably researched" and a "good read."

Fleming said he believes civic-minded citizens interested in history, particularly Kentucky history, as well as members of the judiciary who frequently deal with state constitutional questions and practitioners, would be interested in the book.

"The book – for the first time – demonstrates the influence of Jefferson on Kentucky's constitution, and that is done by direct references to Jefferson and the papers of George Nicholas," Fleming said. He said there has long been doubt that Jefferson had any influence on Kentucky's constitution.

A Louisville native, Fleming received his bachelor's degree with distinction from the UK College of Arts and Sciences and then stayed at UK for law school. He said an undergraduate course in constitutional law taught by Professor Emeritus Bradley Canon in the College of Arts & Sciences helped ignite his interest in law school.

After receiving his law degree, Fleming practiced throughout Kentucky. He served as general counsel to the Economic Development Cabinet under Kentucky Governors Wallace Wilkinson and Brereton Jones (1988-1993), general counsel to the governor and deputy secretary of the executive cabinet under Governor Paul Patton (1995-2003) and as chief deputy attorney general under Attorney General Greg Stumbo (2003-2004). In 2004, Fleming was appointed chief of staff to Congressman Ben Chandler in the U.S. House of Representatives. Fleming later worked with Almost Family Inc., a Kentucky-based national homecare provider, as senior vice president and legislative counsel.

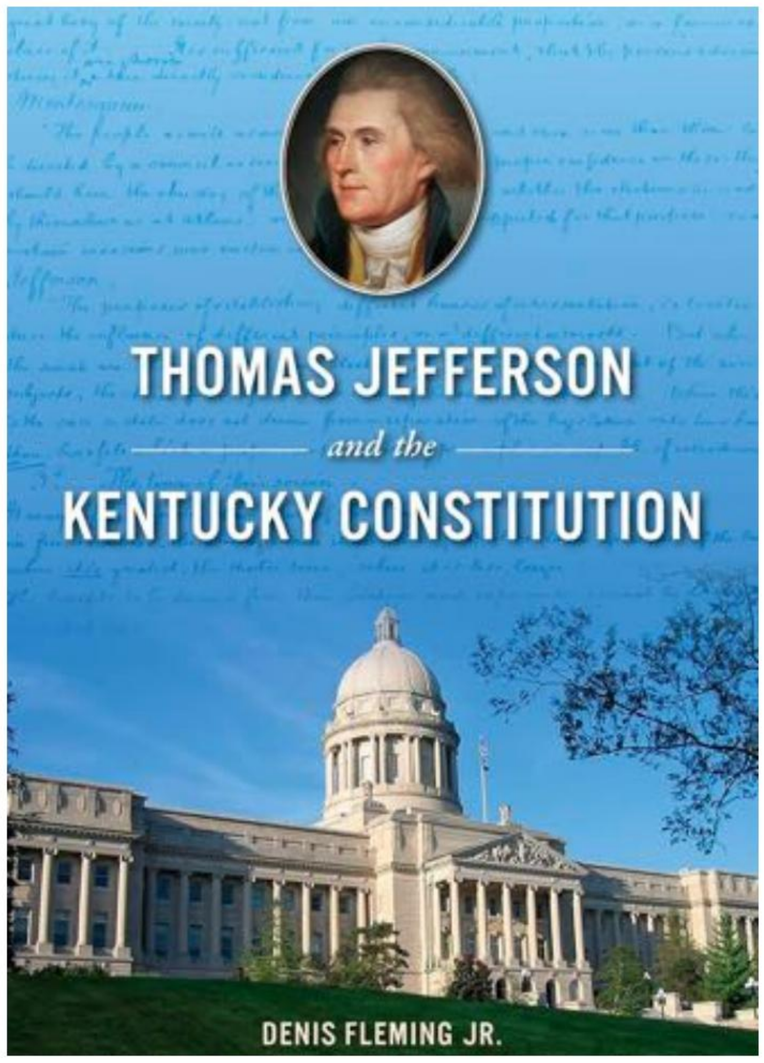
Fleming said he decided to donate royalties from the book to the law school because of the college's role in his career success. He recalled several encouraging professors, including Bob Lawson and Bill Fortune.

"UK law school just opened up the world to me," Fleming said. "It gave me more opportunities and chances to meet people who really changed my life."

"Thomas Jefferson and the Kentucky Constitution" is Fleming's first book. He contacted the college before the book published on Feb. 11, 2025, to discuss his plans to give back.

"We are pleased that one of our alums has decided to support the college in this way," said Aimee Baston, director of philanthropy for the UK Rosenberg College of Law. "This scholarship will help law students by opening doors to meaningful opportunities similar to those that motivated Denis Fleming to give back to his alma mater."

On Thursday, March 27, Fleming visited the college to discuss his new book with students, faculty, and staff during a lunch session moderated by UK Rosenberg Law Professor Josh Douglas, acting associate dean for research.



"UK law school just opened up the world to me. It gave me more opportunities and chances to meet people who really changed my life."

Denis Fleming Jr.

LOOK AT WHAT WE BUILT TOGETHER:

A Thank You to the Kentucky Bar From the UK Office of Continuing Legal Education

I was giving my office a long overdue cleaning the other day and ran across some old documents memorializing early discussions and activities between leaders of the University of Kentucky College of Law — now the UK J. David Rosenberg College of Law — the Kentucky Supreme Court, and the Kentucky Bar Association (KBA), regarding the beginning of CLE in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the role that the UK College of Law would have in that new experiment. At the request of the KBA and with the strong support of Dean George W. Hardy III, the College of Law hired a lawyer director, launched its Office of Continuing Legal Education, and was the first to begin offering continuing professional legal education in Kentucky with a full-day seminar on the "New Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure" in October 1973.

The University of Kentucky was one of the early providers of continuing legal education among law schools in the nation and remains one of the very few law schools in the country that maintains a full-time CLE program. Over its history, UK CLE has presented more than 760 live programs, is the only law school-based CLE program in the nation offering a free-standing publications library, and was the first provider in Kentucky to offer technologically transmitted CLE content. It now maintains an annual and biennial calendar of programming that is regionally, nationally, and internationally recognized. The office continues to be the main connection between the UK Rosenberg College of Law and the practicing bar — and none of this could have been accomplished without you, the members of the Kentucky Bar. It was all built in partnership.

For the small professional staff[i] of UK CLE, you have been our co-workers and colleagues — members of the practicing bar who graciously and generously gave of your time, knowledge, and expertise to better the profession of which you are members. Fifty-two years of volunteer chairs, speakers, committee members, and authors from Kentucky and around the country working together and contributing their time to the elevation of the practice of law and to the mentorship and education of one another. It really is quite a remarkable thing to have witnessed. You should each be very proud of what you have helped build[ii].

After 31 years with UK CLE, I have retired from its directorship (hence the cleaning of my office). It has been my honor to have worked alongside the finest of the Kentucky bar in building the reputation of UK CLE and the Rosenberg College of Law. I have witnessed careers begin, practices thrive, mentors and proteges working together, leaders rise, diversity grow, and the practice of law in Kentucky elevated. It has all been my privilege.

On behalf of the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, the Office of Continuing Legal Education, and the small number of professionals that have worked at UK CLE in its 52-year existence — well done, Kentucky Bar. And thank you.

Sincerely,
Kevin P. Bucknam
Director[iii], UK CLE

[i]Melinda Rawlings, Tracy J. Taylor, Ben Distler, Elizabeth M. Stewart, and myself.
[ii]I have called upon you so many times in my tenure with UK CLE, and you always answered in the affirmative. If I may be so bold as to call upon you one last time — when UK CLE calls upon you in the future, please help us continue to build.
[iii]There have been three directors of UK CLE in its history: John King Hickey (1973-1986); my dear friend and mentor Todd Eberle (1986-2000); and myself.

College Welcomes New CLE Director Mary Beth Forester

The University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law welcomed Mary Beth Forester, an alumna of the college, as the new director of the Office of Continuing Legal Education on July 28. Forester previously served as the legal director of the Monuments Workshop at UK.

Forester also teaches as a visiting professor of politics at Centre College. She previously served as a decision writer and attorney adjudicator with the Social Security Administration Office of Hearings Operations in Lexington, Kentucky, and served for many years as the director of Continuing Legal Education for the Kentucky Bar Association.

Before beginning her work in public service, Forester was in private practice with Johnson, Judy, True & Guarnieri in Frankfort, and McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie & Kirkland in Lexington, focusing primarily on health care, employment, administrative, and real property law, as well as general civil litigation. She is also a certified mediator.

Forester earned her J.D. from the University of Kentucky and her B.A. in Philosophy and English from Centre College.

Justice Pamela Goodwine Dedicates Her Life To Making a Difference In Her Community and the World

When Pamela Goodwine was a teenager growing up in the inner city of Youngstown, Ohio, she had a dream of one day becoming a judge and serving as a justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

As part of a high school class project, she walked into the Mahoning County Courthouse to interview members of the legal profession and she noticed that no one looked like her. She wanted to make sure that younger generations had the opportunity to see diversity within the legal profession not only among legal secretaries and stenographers but also among lawyers, judges and justices.

"Justice Thurgood Marshall was the first African American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court and I told my parents that was something I wanted to do some day and I wanted to be the first to make a difference," Goodwine said.

On Jan. 6, Justice Pamela Goodwine began her service as a justice on the Kentucky Supreme Court, becoming the first Black woman to achieve this position, the most recent highlight of Goodwine's 25-year career in Kentucky's judiciary, with service at every level from district court to the Commonwealth's highest court.

The road leading to the realization of her lifelong dream wasn't an easy path. The journey was fraught with what seemed like insurmountable obstacles and sudden turns at every crucial moment. Despite the challenges, Goodwine's story is one of fierce determination, meeting and surpassing challenges, and success. She never lost sight of her goal of making a difference in the world, proving nothing is impossible when you have big dreams and set high goals.

Goodwine was born into foster care and adopted by her foster parents when she was just three months old. Her dad taught her throughout her life that with hard work and determination, she could do and be anything that she wanted to do and be. Her parents emphasized that the one way out of the inner city was education.

Taking her parents' advice to heart, Goodwine worked hard and became valedictorian of her high school class. She received a full four-year honors scholarship to her choice of any college in the country and she chose Carnegie Mellon University. Unfortunately, during the summer after her high school graduation, her dad was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. She forfeited her scholarship to stay home and take care of him since he had forfeited his retirement to take care of her.

OUT OF THE INNER CITY AND INTO THE COURTROOM

"While taking care of my dad, I learned about a court stenography program at ITT Tech. I knew if I could complete that program, it would get me into the courtroom as my first step in the legal profession. My dad died in March 1979 and I completed the program in November 1979," Goodwine said.

The day she graduated, Goodwine received a phone call about a court reporting firm that was opening in Lexington, and they invited her to interview.

"When I arrived, I was absolutely enamored by the beauty of the Bluegrass and Lexington," she said. "I thought I had landed my preliminary dream job as a freelance court reporter."

Goodwine was only 19-years-old when she moved to Lexington from Youngstown to begin her first job in the law profession. She loved Lexington so much that she made Lexington her home. It was here that she chose to make a difference.

She first set foot in the courtroom and the legal profession as a roving reporter throughout the Commonwealth, but her eye was always on the bench. She never lost sight of her goal of becoming a judge and ultimately a justice on the Kentucky Supreme Court.

But about six months into her career, life took another unexpected turn.

"My mother was murdered in Youngstown, and I was now faced with dealing with the criminal justice system from a victim's standpoint," Goodwine said. "I didn't like what I saw or how things were handled there so I thought this was how I could make a difference in pursuing my career here in Lexington."

When Goodwine realized she was going to stay in Lexington, she enrolled at the University of Kentucky in 1980.

"I discovered UK was a wonderful university and law school with a great reputation, so it was everything I was looking for and needed to pursue my career," she said.

Shortly after her mother was killed, Goodwine became so gravely ill that she needed to change jobs. The travel associated with being an itinerant court reporter was taking a toll on her health, so she got a job at the Fayette County Courthouse as court reporter for the criminal division. By this time, she was diagnosed with advanced stage Crohn's disease and hospitalized. She had to drop out of college which further delayed her career path by four years.

"I was told I would likely not survive and if I did survive, I would likely not work again, but I was determined and I maintained I would become a justice on the Supreme Court one day," Goodwine said.

Goodwine persevered through her illness and extensive rehabilitation and re-enrolled at UK in the Fall of 1987. In 1991 — 11 years after she first started her college career at UK — she graduated from the Gatton College of Business and Economics. She immediately enrolled in UK J. David Rosenberg College of Law at the age of 31, alongside much younger students, and graduated in three years with her Juris Doctor degree in 1994.

The tragic loss of her mother and serious, life-threatening health issues could have easily derailed her plans and discouraged her, but no matter what the circumstances, she says she never gave up on her dream.

"I don't give up on my dreams when life gets hard," Goodwine said. "I simply work harder to make my dreams come true."

TRAILBLAZER

"When I graduated from law school, I thought I was going to be a prosecutor because of my mother's murder. I wanted to bring criminals to justice, and I wanted that to be my pathway to the bench but there were no openings in the Commonwealth's Attorney's office at the time," Goodwine said.

In 1994 Goodwine was hired by the law firm Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs and practiced civil litigation, with a concentration on labor and employment litigation. She was assigned to the southeastern United States. She was the only African American working in their office at the time and in her position serving on the firm's personnel committee, she interviewed other Black job candidates across the nation to let them know what opportunities were available to them in large law firms like Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs.

"I loved making a difference while I was in private practice, being able to solve problems and address issues, but I never lost sight of my dream. I was 19 when I came to Kentucky and I tell young people all the time, when you have a goal or you have a dream, keep it in your focus and make sure everything that you do will further that goal. I never wavered. I never wanted to do anything else," Goodwine said.

In 1999, a vacancy on the Fayette County District Court bench became available and Gov. Paul Patton was going to make an appointment. Goodwine applied and was appointed, becoming the first Black woman to serve on the bench in Fayette County.

Goodwine says that when she became a judge, it was everything she thought it would be. She describes her courtroom as the "people's court."

"Over the course of my career, I developed a commitment to approaching each case with dedication to the rule of law. I went on to become Trial Judge of the Year when I was on the Circuit Court bench, and I think it's because I wanted everyone to feel like they had a voice and that they were heard when they came into my courtroom."

After serving the remainder of her predecessor's unexpired term, Goodwine ran her first countywide race and was successful, marking another milestone as she became the first Black woman to be elected to the bench in Fayette County.

"It would take another 20 years before another African American woman was elected to the Fayette County bench, but now there are three, other than me, and 11 women total serving on the bench in Fayette County," she said. "That's phenomenal and many have called me a trailblazer and that's something that I'm proud of."

"The election of a Black woman to the Kentucky Supreme Court is a historic milestone," Goodwine added. "It highlights the progress we have made while also serving as a reminder that we still have work to do. It underscores the importance of diversity in the judiciary not only to reflect the communities we serve, but also to ensure a variety of perspectives on our highest court. I am also the first woman and only the fifth person in history to serve at all levels of the judiciary in Kentucky."

ANN BLACKFORD

ACCOLADES

Before her appointment to the bench, Goodwine chaired the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and served as a commissioner for the agency. Her career has been marked by numerous accolades, including induction into the UK Gatton College of Business and Economics Alumni Hall of Fame in 2000 and recognition as the Fayette County Bar Association's Outstanding Young Lawyer in 2001. She received the Henry V. Pennington Trial Judge of the Year Award from the Kentucky Justice Association in 2012 and presided over Fayette County Specialty Court from 2011 until her election to the Kentucky Court of Appeals in 2018. That same year, she was honored with both the Women Making History Award from the Kentucky Commission on Women and the Carl Brashear Walking by Faith Award from the Carter G. Woodson Academy. In 2020 the Kentucky Gazette named her one of the state's Notable Women in Politics and Government, and in 2022 she was recognized as Woman of the Year by the Fayette County Bar Association Women Lawyers Association. This year she received the Justice William McAnulty Award from the Kentucky Supreme Court, further cementing her legacy of service and leadership in the legal profession.

DID YOU KNOW?

Goodwine has been a certified Jazzercise fitness instructor since 2012. Fitness isn't her only love. She is a self-described "die-hard sports fan" and says she and her husband both love football, basketball, baseball, tennis and just about any other sport you can name, especially during the playoffs or championships.

Goodwine received her Master of Laws degree from Duke University but says she still bleeds (Kentucky) blue no matter what.

"As long as Duke isn't playing UK or Louisville, I root for Duke but if Duke and UK are playing, it's UK all the way. I wear both hats but not at the same time."

College Celebrates

Hall of Fame Inductees and Alumni Award Recipients

The University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law recently held its 2025 Law Alumni Association Hall of Fame and Alumni Awards reception at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Lexington, Kentucky.

The Hall of Fame was established to acknowledge graduates and former faculty of the college whose extraordinary professional success and contributions, profound positive influence on the college, and high degree of character and integrity are recognized by their peers.

Inclusion in the Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed by the college. The following individuals were inducted into the 2025 Hall of Fame: Garvice Kincaid, Gary D. Payne, John M. Rogers, and Penny Warren.

In addition to the Hall of Fame induction, the Law Alumni Association presented the 2025 Alumni Awards to Mark P. Bryant (Professional Achievement Award), Laken Gilbert Albrink (Community Service Award), Jennifer Jackson (Young Professional Award), Thomas Wingate (Distinguished Jurist Award), and Hank Jones (Legacy Award).

Hall of Fame inductee **Garvice Kincaid** (Class of 1937) was considered one of the most successful businessmen in Kentucky history before his death in 1975. In 1945, he became the youngest bank president in Kentucky at the age of 32 after he and some colleagues acquired the majority interest in Central Bank & Trust Company in Lexington.

In 1959, he purchased control of Kentucky Central Life Insurance Company and took it from the relative obscurity of a small, regional insurer to one of the nation's largest life insurance companies.

At the time of his death, Kincaid was chairman of the Board of Kentucky Central Life Insurance Company; held controlling interest in 20 banks in Central and Eastern Kentucky; and headed the Lexington law firm of Kincaid, Wilson, Schaeffer and Hembree, and several enterprises engaged in consumer finance, real estate, and radio and television broadcasting.

Hall of Fame inductee **Gary D. Payne** (Class of 1979) practiced law in various capacities in Lexington before becoming the first Black judge in Fayette County after his appointment to the Fayette District Court bench in 1988. He later served as a Fayette Circuit Court judge from 1994 until 2006, including holding the role of chief judge from 2002 to 2003.

He entered the Judge Advocate General Corps in the Kentucky Army National Guard as a first lieutenant in 1981. He was the first Black JAG in the state of Kentucky and further broke barriers in 2002 when he earned the rank of colonel.

Payne retired from the bench at the end of 2011 after serving as a senior status judge in Kentucky. In retirement, he continues to serve as a member of the Character and Fitness Committee for the Kentucky Office of Bar Admissions and as an adjunct professor in the University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics.

Hall of Fame inductee **John M. Rogers**, who graduated from University of Michigan Law School in 1974, joined the law school faculty at UK in 1978 and taught until 2002 when he was appointed by President George W. Bush to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. At UK, he regularly taught torts, administrative law, constitutional law, and international law. He was associate dean for academic affairs from 1991 to 1994. He is lead co-author of a published casebook for administrative law, currently in its fifth edition. Rogers spent two separate years as a Fulbright senior lecturer in China, teaching international law and other subjects.

Rogers was an appellate litigator in the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice from 1974 to 1978 and a visiting professor at the DOJ from 1983 to 1985.

Rogers is a member of the American Law Institute and of the Council on Foreign Relations. He was commissioned as a U.S. Army Reserve Artillery Officer when he graduated from college, and he participated in the Army Reserve Components for 28 years, including five years in the Kentucky Army National Guard.

Hall of Fame inductee **Penny Warren** (Class of 1979) started law school at UK at a time when only 7 percent of U.S. attorneys were female. Despite earning her law degree, an MBA from University of Arkansas, and strong recommendations, she initially struggled to find a job.

She began her law career as an appellate lawyer with the Kentucky Attorney General's office. She represented Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. and his reorganization of the Public Service Commission and won. She went on to win numerous state and federal cases. In 1981, Warren briefed a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1984, she became the first female graduate of the law school at UK to brief and argue before the court, returning in 1987 to argue another successful case.

Warren joined Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, LLP as a partner and complex commercial trial litigator in 1988. She represented clients such as Norfolk Southern in contract disputes and several coal companies in complex commercial litigation, earning the highest Martindale-Hubbell rating (AV) for her work.

Looking toward retirement, Warren joined Federal District Judge Karl Forester as a law clerk in 2006. After Forester's death in 2014, Warren continued assisting other federal judges in the Eastern District of Kentucky.

After nearly 40 years of experience in state and federal trial and appellate court, Warren retired in 2018. She currently serves on the UK Rosenberg College of Law Visiting Committee.

The Professional Achievement Award recognizes a particularly noteworthy accomplishment in a given year but may be given to one who has achieved and sustained an extraordinary level of excellence in a particular area of law. **Mark P. Bryant** (Class of 1973) of Paducah has built a remarkable career from his hometown since 1973. He served as Commonwealth's Attorney for McCracken County for 16 years. Bryant has practiced law for more than 50 years and tried more than 100 cases, both civil and criminal, to jury verdict. He founded the Bryant Law Center in 1990.

The Community Service Award is given to the graduate who has provided outstanding leadership in their community, state or nation to aid and benefit causes not necessarily related to the legal profession. **Laken Gilbert Albrink** (Class of 2015) serves as an assistant professor of legal writing at UK Rosenberg College of Law, where she obtained her J.D. She joined the college after serving as assistant professor and program coordinator of the Morehead State University Legal Studies Programs.

Albrink sits on the Boards of Directors for Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky and the Kentucky CASA Network. She was also appointed by the governor to the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners. Albrink formerly served on the Kentucky Commission on Women and the Child Abuse Prevention and Exploitation Prevention Board.

The Young Professional Award is given to an individual who graduated within the past 10 years and has distinguished themselves professionally in the community, or in some other fashion. **Jennifer Henry Jackson** (Class of 2018) is an attorney in the Louisville office of Stites & Harbison. She is a member of the Torts & Insurance Practice Group, White Collar Criminal Defense Practice Group, and Health Care Service Group. She handles a variety of litigation matters, including product liability, toxic and mass torts, medical malpractice, professional liability, premises liability, and actions alleging serious personal injury or death. She also represents health care providers in complex fraud investigations involving the Department of Justice, FBI, and Drug Enforcement Agency.

Judge Thomas Wingate (Class of 1991) received this year's Distinguished Jurist Award, given to someone who has distinguished themselves through a contribution of outstanding service to the legal profession. Wingate was appointed to serve as Franklin County District Judge in September 1999 and was retained by voters of Franklin County in the 2000 and 2002 elections. In 2006, he filled the unexpired term of retiring Judge William Graham. Wingate was unopposed in 2014 and 2022 and began serving his third term as Franklin Circuit Court Judge in January 2023.

The Legacy Award is bestowed upon an individual who graduated 50 or more years ago and has demonstrated exceptional leadership in their profession and/or community and has made a positive impact on the well-being of the UK Rosenberg College of Law, the Commonwealth of Kentucky or elsewhere in the nation. **Hank Jones** (Class of 1973) began a long and successful career in civil litigation after graduating from law school. Over his career, he has tried cases in more than 60 Kentucky counties and handled matters in more than 90 counties. Before retiring in 2021, Jones began mediating cases to help resolve disputes outside of court. He now mediates full-time through Hank Jones Mediations LLC.

A dedicated member of the Kentucky Bar Association, Jones chaired the Continuing Legal Education program at the 1988 Annual Convention and helped organize the 1996 First Amendment panel. Jones was active in the Defense Research Institute, receiving its Exceptional Service Citation in 1989 and 1998. Jones is a UK Fellow and life member of the UK Alumni Association and has served for more than 20 years on the KBA Ethics Committee.

For information about nominating someone for the Law Alumni Association Hall of Fame and Alumni Awards, email uklawalumni@uky.edu.

UK Rosenberg College of Law and Berea College

Co-Host Second National Series Tournament

Undergraduate students from 17 universities convened at the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law on Saturday, Jan. 25, and Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025, for the American Moot Court Association Bluegrass National Series Tournament, co-hosted with Berea College.

This was the third competition, and second national series tournament, co-hosted by UK Rosenberg Law and Berea College. In 2022, the colleges co-hosted the Bluegrass Regional Undergraduate Moot Court Tournament, a qualifier for the national tournament of the AMCA. In 2024, because of the success of the regional tournament, the colleges co-hosted one of the national series of tournaments leading to the crowning of the annual champions.

More than 60 undergraduate students on 32 teams from across the country competed in this year's national series round in Lexington, Kentucky. The universities represented included Bentley University, Boston University, California State University Fullerton, California State University Long Beach, College of the Holy Cross, Eastern Michigan University, Georgetown University, Liberty University, Loyola University Chicago, Macalester College, Patrick Henry College, The University of Chicago, University of Southern California, Vanderbilt University, William & Mary, Williams College, and Yale University.

Local attorneys, including many UK Rosenberg Law alumni, volunteered to serve as "justices" for each round of the tournament. Current law students volunteered to serve as bailiffs.

AMCA officials and Berea College student volunteers helped UK Rosenberg Law staff facilitate the tournament. Dan Huck, professor of Law, Ethics and Society at Berea College, served as the tournament director.

"This year's tournament was once again a great success thanks to the team we have established between Berea and Rosenberg Law. Coaches, students, and national association representatives consistently praise our event as one of the best in the country, and we owe that recognition to strong participation from the local legal practice community and the UK law alumni base," Huck said.

VOLUNTEER JUDGES:

Laken Albrink
Kimberly Baird
Joseph Bowman
Jamila Carter
Wayne Collier
Ryan Cook
Harry Dadds
William Davis
Cory Dodds
Dave Emerson
Mary Beth Forester
Al Grasch
Marian Hayden
Cael Henshaw
Cary Howard
Dana Howard
Ellen Kennedy
Kara Legg
Brandon Lira
William Mann
Arnetta McClary
John McNeill
Nolan McWilliams
David Newton
James Noll
Kevin Palley
Yesel Rodriguez
David Royce
Paul Salamanca
Gracie Sandlin
Abby Schueler
Emily Shepherd
Bruce Singleton
Denotra Spruill Gunther
Jim Thomerson
Judge Wilson
Macy Young

The competitions required utilizing every classroom throughout the law building, with the final round being held in the G. Chad Perry III Grand Courtroom. William Mahoney and Kaylee Pierre of Yale University took home the first-place trophy. The runners-up were Samhita Kumar and Miles Kirkpatrick, also from Yale University.

"We're grateful for the hosts and the judges, especially," Mahoney said. "I ran a tournament at our school, and I know how hard it is to get judges, and judges are really the core of the tournament, and so we're just really thankful for them."

Pierre said she also had a great time during the tournament and appreciated the excellent facilities in the law building as well as her positive interactions with the volunteers and other competitors.

"You all worked hard to get here, and that's obvious," said UK Rosenberg Law Professor Laken Albrink, who volunteered as a justice, to the final round competitors. "Great job all around."

The top eight teams advanced from Lexington to the final round tournament of the AMCA's national series.

"If you choose to go into the profession, the profession will be better off with you," said Fayette District Judge Denotra Spruill Gunther, who also served as a justice for the final round.

UK Rosenberg Law Alumnus Bruce Singleton, a volunteer justice, and his wife, Pegi, of Somerset donated robes this year for the justices to wear who served in the final round.

"You all did a terrific job," UK Rosenberg Law former Acting Dean Paul E. Salamanca, who served as chief justice in the final round, told the final four competitors. He reminded the students that oral arguments are a conversation between them and the bench and offered advice about how to prepare for oral arguments.

VOLUNTEER BAILIFFS:

Robbie Desper
Toby Giganti
MaKayla Harris
Fatime Kerelaj
Michael Kern
John Lambert
Tina Ly
Brynne McKinsey
Kody Lynn Morgan
Lauren Repa
Jodon Sargent
Benjamin Scott
Kilian Southworth
Garrett Tice
Genevieve White

Happy *Homecoming* 2024

Class of 2004 Reunion

Class of 1999 Reunion

Class Reunions

University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law alumni gathered to celebrate reunions last fall over the university's homecoming weekend. The Class of 1974 gathered for a luncheon on Oct. 10, 2024, at Holly Hill Inn restaurant in Midway, Kentucky. On the evening of Friday, Oct. 11, alumni from various classes gathered at the law building, wearing buttons to indicate their class year.

Class of 1974

Celebrates 50th Reunion

THE HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

The University of Kentucky Ro

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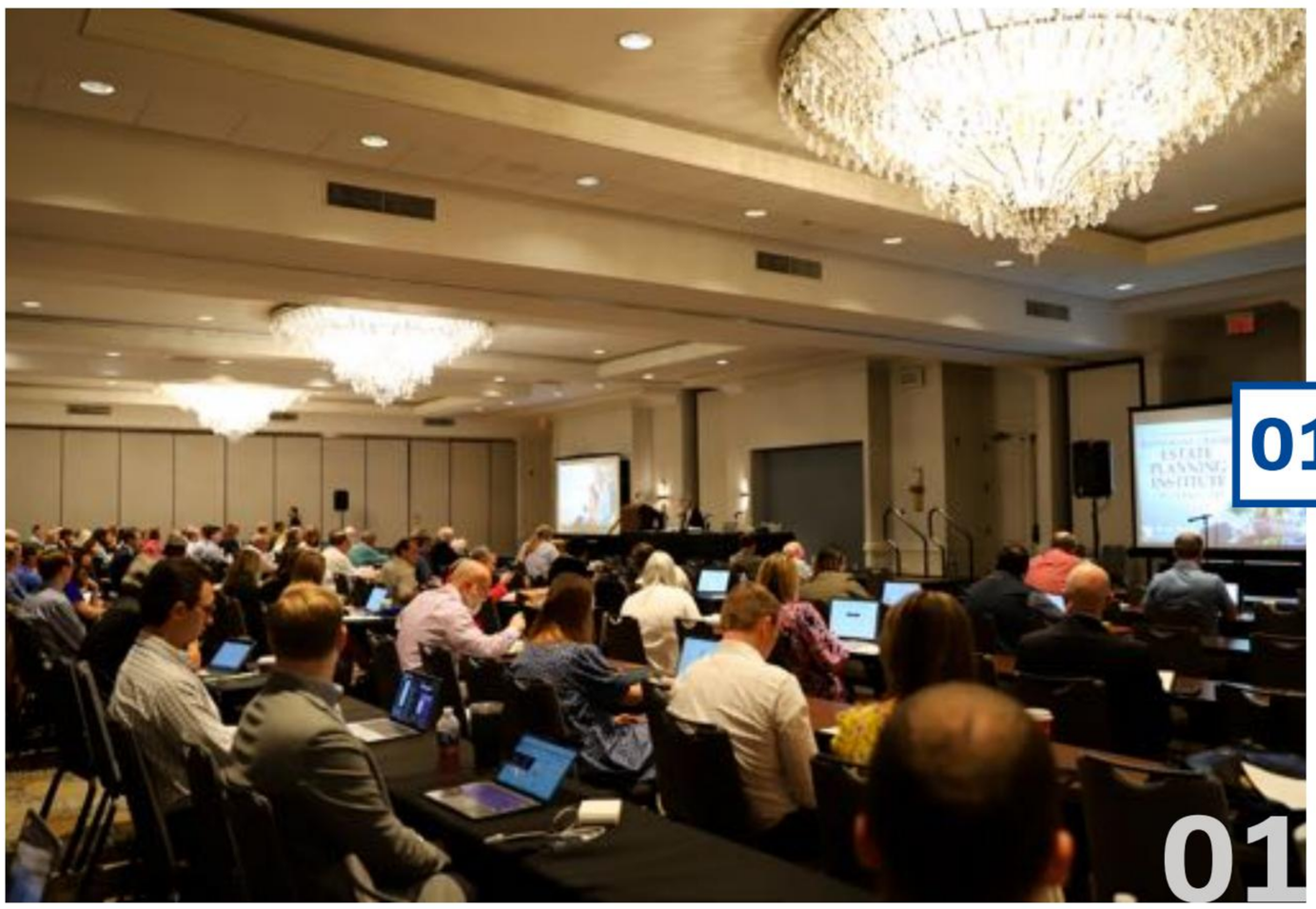

01

The UK J. David Rosenberg College of Law Office of Continuing Legal Education held its **52nd Annual Midwest-Midsouth Bondurant | Bagby Estate Planning Institute** July 31–Aug. 1, 2025, at the Griffin Gate Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Lexington, Kentucky, and via Zoom. The summer institute presents authoritative, practical programs in estate planning and estate administration. The institute is the longest-running annual CLE event in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and many attendees participate every year. For more information about CLE programs, visit law.uky.edu/continuing-legal-education.

02

Third-year law students and alumni gathered for the annual **3L & Alumni Bash** in September 2024. The event, held during Thursday Night Live in downtown Lexington, gives law students an opportunity to celebrate their final year and network with others in the legal community.

03

On April 1, 2025, a **guest panel** visited the college to discuss legal resources for Kentucky veterans and opportunities for helping business owners who are veterans. The panel included Judge Lindsay Hughes Thurston, Fayette District Court Judge, 3rd Division; Kathy Vasquez, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Denis W. Shepherd, attorney and chairperson of the Kentucky Bar Association Military and Veterans Law Committee.

04

In recognition of **Law School Mental Health Day**, UK Rosenberg College of Law faculty and staff wore green on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, to show support for our students' well-being.

05

Congressman Morgan McGarvey, a UK Rosenberg College of Law alumnus, visited on April 14, 2025, to discuss life in the law, Kentucky state government, and the U.S. Congress. He joined in a discussion with former Acting Dean Paul Salamanca in an event organized by the college's **Student Public Interest Law Foundation** and **American Constitution Society** student organizations.

04

05

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